

What is claimed is:

1. A color-designating server which displays a screen for designating color at a user terminal, which can be connected to a network, the color-designating server comprising:

    a matchable color database which stores data required for determining matchable colors;

    a conditions-designating processing unit which transmits a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining the matchable colors, to the user terminal; and

    a color data transmitting unit which determines colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data, designated in the conditions-designating screen, by consulting the matchable color database, and transmits a result to the user terminal.

2. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, wherein the data required for determining the matchable colors comprises at least the type of resin, the type of dye or pigment, and the ratio when matching them.

3. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, wherein the color data transmitting unit provides a color gamut, comprising a region of colors which can be matched from the matchable colors, in a color space, and transmits data for displaying a color-designating screen for enabling colors to be designated in the color gamut to the user terminal.

4. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, wherein the matchable color database further stores basic color data relating to a plurality of basic colors, determined by combining resins and dyes or pigments; and

    the color data transmitting unit determines a color gamut, comprising a region of matchable colors which can be matched from the basic colors under the conditions determined by the conditions data, by consulting the matchable color database, and transmits the result to the user terminal.

5. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, wherein the matchable color database further stores color sample data relating to colors of color samples; and

the color data transmission unit determines color samples which can be matched under the conditions, determined by the conditions data, by consulting the matchable color database, and transmits the result to the user terminal.

6. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, further comprising a color data receiving unit which receives color data relating to a color which was designated from the matchable colors;

an arrangement calculating unit which calculates an arrangement ratio of resins and dyes or pigments based the received color data; and

an arrangement result transmitting unit which transmits arrangement result data, output from the arrangement calculating unit, to the user terminal.

7. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, further comprising a use data receiving unit which receives use data relating to an item to be colored from the user terminal;

the conditions-designating processing unit transmitting the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data, to the user terminal.

8. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, further comprising a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information relating to items to be colored, in correlation with user ID, specifying users of the color-designating server; and

when the user has been identified, the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal.

9. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, wherein the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen further comprising means of designating requirements, according to the requirements of the user, obtained by consulting the customer database.

10. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, further comprising a virtual item coloring processing unit which displays a virtual item conforming to actual requirements in two-dimensions or three-dimensions in the color-designating screen, colors the virtual item in the color which has been designated from the matchable colors, and allows the color to be confirmed.

11. The color-designating server according to Claim 1, further comprising a cost-calculating unit which calculates a cost based on data relating to resins and dyes or pigments which is determined uniquely by arrangement result data, output by the arrangement calculation processing unit;

the arrangement result unit transmitting the arrangement result data including cost data.

12. A color-designating receiving/ordering system comprising at least a color-designating server which displays a screen for designating color at a user terminal, which can be connected to a network, and a receive-order system which receives order data, received from the user terminal by the color-designating server,

the color-designating server comprising:

a matchable color database which stores data required for determining matchable colors;

a conditions-designating processing unit which transmits a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining the matchable colors, to the user terminal; and

a color data transmitting unit which determines colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data, designated in the conditions-designating screen, by consulting the matchable color database, and transmits a result to the user terminal;

a receiving unit which, when a color has been designated from the matchable colors, and a product in the color has been designated, receives designated product data for specifying the color and the product, and order data, from the user terminal; and

a transmitting unit which transmits the designated product data and the order data to the receive-order system;

the receive-order system comprising a receive-order unit which performs receive-order processing based on the order data, which has been received.

13. The color-designating receiving/ordering system according to Claim 12, further comprising a distribution system which manages the stock number of the products;

the color-designating server further comprising an available stock confirming unit which extracts stock data of a product corresponding to the designated product data from the distribution system, and determines whether it can be ordered; and

a transmitting unit which transmits the result of the determination to the user terminal.

14. The color-designating receiving/ordering system according to Claim 12, further comprising an account system which manages data relating to the cost of the product; and

the color-designating server further comprising a price supplying unit which extracts current price data of materials used in a product, which has been specified in the product-product data, from the account system, and supplies a price of the product reflecting the current price to the user terminal.

15. The color-designating receiving/ordering system according to Claim 12, further comprising a manufacturing system which receives receive-order data from the receive-order system, and manufactures a product based on the receive-order data.

16. A color-designating method which displays a screen for designating color at a user terminal, which can be connected to a network, the color-designating method

comprising:

a first step of transmitting a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining matchable colors, to the user terminal; and

a second step of determining colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data, designated in the conditions-designating screen, by consulting the matchable color database, and transmitting the result to the user terminal.

17. The color-designating method according to Claim 16, the second step comprising providing a color gamut, comprising a region of colors which can be matched from the matchable colors, in a color space, and transmitting data for displaying a color-designating screen for enabling colors to be designated in the color gamut to the user terminal.

18. A color-designating receiving/ordering method using a color-designating server which displays a screen for designating color at a user terminal, which can be connected to a network, and a receive-order system which receives order data, received from the user terminal by the color-designating server, the color-designating receiving/ordering method comprising the steps of:

the color-designating server transmitting a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining the matchable colors, to the user terminal;

the color-designating server determining colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data, designated in the conditions-designating screen, by consulting the matchable color database, and transmitting the result to the user terminal;

when a color has been designated from the matchable colors, and a product in the color has been designated, the color-designating server receiving designated product data for specifying the color and the product, and order data, from the user terminal;

the color-designating server transmitting the designated product data and the order data to the receive-order system; and

the receive-order system performing receive-order processing based on the order data, which has been received.

19. A computer-readable recording medium, which a program of color-designating method for displaying a screen for designating color at a user terminal, which can be connected to a network, is recorded in, the program comprising:

a first step of transmitting a conditions-designating screen for designating conditions data, required for determining matchable colors, to the user terminal; and

a second step of determining colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data, designated in the conditions-designating screen, by consulting the matchable color database, and transmitting the result to the user terminal.